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27 April 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, USIB

SUBJECT: Secretariat Summary of USIB Agenda for 29 April

NOTE: As I mentioned to you earlier, General McChristian plans to attend this meeting to say farewell to the Board. General Ott will act as the Army representative for the actual agenda items.

- Item 1 Minutes and Associated Papers
Drafts have been circulated by the Exec Sec for USIB approval;
Sponsor -
- Item 2 Watch Report
Draft by the Watch Committee to be circulated for USIB approval;
Sponsor - General Cushman
- Item 3 SNIE on Continuity and Change in Castro's Cuba
BNE draft coordinated with USIB Representatives for USIB approval; Sponsor - Mr. John Huizenga

This SNIE was requested by Dr. Kissinger (a copy of his letter is attached to Mr. Huizenga's briefing memorandum) for completion by 1 May. BNE believes that the substantive problems which arose during the coordination process have been resolved at the USIB Representatives level. BNE does not anticipate any particular problems at the Board meeting.

- Item 4 NIE on The Soviet Role in Latin America
BNE draft coordinated with USIB Representatives for USIB approval; Sponsor - Mr. Huizenga


This regularly scheduled estimate was initiated by BNE partly in response to an earlier proposal by State. Although a number of significant substantive problems came up during coordination these have been resolved at the USIB Representatives level so far as BNE knows. DIA has suggested a few minor changes which are being worked out with BNE.

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- Item 5 NIE on South Vietnam: Problems and Prospects
BNE draft coordinated with USIB Representatives for USIB approval; Sponsor - Mr. Huizenga

This paper, which was made part of the regular estimates program, was originally requested by DIA on behalf of General McChristian. The points of contention seem to have been resolved at the USIB Representatives level except for DIA's reservations to Conclusion I and paragraph 62 (both to the same point) which have been joined by the Army and Air Force Representatives. This involves the judgment that all things considered, "odds of better than even on the longer term survival of the GVN appear unwarranted." The text of the footnote has not been received, but BNE believes that it will express the view that the content of the paper, particularly regarding the problems facing the Communists, supports a belief that the odds are actually better than even. While this is a matter on which honest men may differ, BNE thinks it would be misleading to indicate a higher degree of confidence in Saigon's long-range prospects than is actually felt by BNE at this time.

- Item 6 Executive Session
For comment on "The Intelligence Forum"


Executive Secretary, USIB

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